

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Conversations with America
August/September 1998 Report
to
The National Partnership for Reinventing Government

The Environmental Protection Agency is in touch with its customers, stakeholders, and constituents on a regular basis. Dialogue and involvement are part of the way the Agency does its work. The Agency will therefore use the activities we normally conduct from all our facilities across the nation as our platform to “engage [the largest possible number of] customers in a discussion about how to improve Government service by determining the kind and quality of services they want and their level of satisfaction with existing services.”

Our customer base is very large and varied, so it is necessary for us to use all types of opportunities for “conversations”. We have forums, workshops, conferences, training sessions, and meetings of all sizes (from one-on-one interviews with CEOs, mayors, tribal leaders, governors, etc. to FACA sessions and community wide exchanges around a Superfund problem or an environmental protection opportunity). We use informal sessions, focus groups, surveys, comment cards, Internet feedback screens and more to hear what customers think of our services. Speakers answer questions and listen to comments following speeches, and officials use interactive media opportunities such as radio and television talk shows to reach the public. Hot lines, dockets, visitor centers and libraries seek customer comments. We work with partners in pollution prevention and our co-regulators in state, tribal, local and other federal agencies to collaboratively plan activities. We actively seek input to our rules, regulations and decisions. Top officials meet regularly with industry sector, environmental and other constituency groups.

Therefore, in each report to NPR, the EPA will be listing only highlights of activities planned for the following two months.

AUGUST 1998

When: August 1, 1998

Where: Knoxville, TN

Who & What: Annette Hill, Region 4 Sustainable Development Coordinator, will host a meeting with 25 representatives of a consortium of cities in Region 4. The meeting will focus on discussing what the Region can do to involve a wide range of cities/states in EPA’s national summit on sustainable development to be held in 1999. Attendance is open to cities in the Region.

Why: Participant input will be used to focus Region 4 efforts for involving state and local governments in sustainable development efforts.

Contact: Annette N. Hill, 404/562-8287, hill.annetten@epamail.epa.gov.

When: August 3, 1998

Where: Washington, DC

Who & What: Lynn Goldman, Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances, will attend the Agency's Tribal Operations Committee Meeting to discuss the Tribes FY 2000 program and budget priorities. (Approximately 50 Attendees)

Why: To gain Tribal input into Agency FY 2000 program and budget priorities.

Contact: Caren Rothstein 202-260-0065

When: August 3, 1998

Where: Newark, NJ

Who & What: Emergency and Remedial Response Division Director Richard Caspe and staff will meet with the Ironbound Community Against Toxics to discuss a remediation proposal for the Diamond Alkali Superfund site in the Ironbound section of Newark, New Jersey.

Why: To discuss agency plans for remediation at the site and receive feedback from the community on those plans.

Contact: Bonnie Bellow, Director, Communications Division, EPA Region 2, (212) 637-3660, or bellow.bonnie@epamail.epa.gov.

When: August 3-7, 1998

Where: Boston, MA

Who & What: Timothy Fields, Acting Assistant Administrator of the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER), is one of the many speakers at the 1998 National Community Involvement Conference. The event will bring together about 250 EPA employees who work on community involvement issues. While this conference will not directly involve the public, it is an opportunity to train those who deal with community involvement issues to be better prepared to seek and use community feedback.

Contacts: Helen DuTeau (703) 603-8761 and Tom Heim (301) 589-5318

When: August 3-5, 1998

Where: Park Hyatt at the Bellevue Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa.

Who & What: Region 3 Regional Administrator W. Michael McCabe and Acting Associate Administrator for Reinvention, Jay Benforado head EPA's contingent of managers and technical staff who will exchange ideas at a three-day waste minimization/pollution prevention conference primarily for environmental managers from energy and chemical companies, and regulatory agencies. Its focus is on chemical wastes that are environmentally persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic (known as PBT waste chemicals). Other senior officials participating include John P. Woodley, Jr., Virginia's Secretary of Natural Resources, and Ray Anderson, Co-Chair, President Clinton's Council on Sustainable Development. 800 people are expected to attend, the conference is open to the public at no cost (by registration), and reporters will cover several of the plenary and specialized sessions.

Why: The conference will provide both an information exchange for industry and regulatory agencies on practical, proven approaches to waste minimization/pollution prevention, and an opportunity for the energy and chemical industries to suggest ways for EPA and other regulatory agencies to improve

their regulatory, research, and information contributions to this voluntary program that is yielding significant environmental results. EPA's GPRA objectives include a 25% reduction in PBT waste by 2000 and a 50% reduction by 2005. Participants will have opportunity to offer feedback to EPA through evaluation forms about their needs and the waste minimization program.

Contact: Tad Radzinski, 215/814-2394, radzinski.tad@epamail.epa.gov. The website for the conference is www.techlawinc.com/webannou.htm.

When: August 6, 1998

Where: Atlanta, GA

Who & What: John Hankinson, Region 4 Regional Administrator, will meet with members of the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies representing Montgomery, AL, Greenville, SC, Louisville, KY, Atlanta, GA and Washington, DC in Atlanta, GA. 15 Participants. The meeting topic is sewer overflow policy. Attendance is by invitation from the Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies.

Why: Participant input will be used to set policy on sanitary sewer overflow and combined sewer overflow and allowable wet weather diversions.

Contact: Becky Hendrix, 404/562-8342, hendrix.becky@epamail.epa.gov

When: August 7, 1998

Where: Atlanta, GA

Who & What: EPA Region 4 Regional Administrator John Hankinson, will meet with representatives from local, state, and national environmental organizations (30 attendees) to discuss issues related to proposed titanium mining near the Okefenokee Swamp in southeast Georgia. The meeting is by invitation of local, state, and national groups involved in the meeting.

Why: The Region will use input to develop a strategy for analyzing the mining proposal.

Contact: Becky Hendrix, 404/562-8342, hendrix.becky@epamail.epa.gov.

When: August 7, 1998

Where: Tallahassee, FL

Who & What: Stan Meiburg, Region 4 Deputy Regional Administrator, and Beverly Banister, Region 4 Water Management Deputy Division Director, will meet with representatives of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Florida utilities companies (20 people) to discuss regional underground injection control policy. Attendance is open.

Why: Participant input will be used to examine underground injection control policies and practices in Region 4.

Contact: Daisy Sawicki, 404/562-8343, sawicki.daisy@epmail.epa.gov.

When: August 8-13, 1998

Where: Dallas, Texas

Who & What: Dr. Larry Cox, of the Office of Research and Development, will participate on an invited panel of statisticians from grant-making agencies at a meeting of the American Statistical

Association. Attendance is open to members of the Association. The audience will be seeking information about what kind of extramural support the Agency offers, funding levels, the research opportunities that are available, and guidance on when and how to apply. Dr. Cox will provide information concerning the Agency's statistical work using cooperative agreements; describe the National Research Center for Statistics and the Environment in Seattle, WA; discuss the recent EPA/NSF solicitation in environmental statistics, and the STAR Grants and Fellowship Program, and seek feedback from the attendees re: process improvements to better meet their needs.

Why: The panel session is being held to provide a forum for disseminating information concerning government grant opportunities and to gain feedback from the audience.

Contact: Information concerning the meeting can be obtained at <http://www.amstat.org>

When: August 11-12

Where: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Who & What: Gregg Cooke, Region 6 Regional Administrator, will participate in the 2nd Annual Tribal Environmental Summit, along with Region 6 Division Directors, Tribal Chiefs and environmental officers for 65 Tribes, and senior managers from other Federal agencies. (250 attendees) Topics of discussion include Tribal Air Rule, Clean Water Action Plan, Drinking Water. There will be several open mike sessions.

Why: Work with the Tribes to incorporate their needs into General Assistance Program grants and improve work processes.

Contact: Ellen Greeney, (214)665-6778, or greeney.ellen@epamail.epa.gov

When: August 12 & 13, 1998

Where: Chester, Rockaway, Sparta, Dover, and East Hanover townships, Wharton Borough, Parsippany, Troy Hills, Boonton, Fairfield, Gillette, and Millington, NJ

Who & What: Emergency and Remedial Response Division Director Richard Caspe will tour every Superfund site in New Jersey's 11th congressional district with Congressman Frelinghuysen. At each site they will be accompanied by representatives of the community and any interested representatives of the press. Director Caspe and staff will update the audience on work progress, answer community questions and listen to communities concerns regarding remediation plans.

Why: To update the Member of Congress on Region 2's work in the district and to register any community concerns regarding the progress of the work at each site.

Contact: Bonnie Bellow, Director, Communications Division, EPA Region 2, (212) 637-3660, or bellow.bonnie@epamail.epa.gov

When: August 13, 1998

Where: New York City

Who & What: Region 2 Regional Administrator Jeanne Fox will meet with the Hudson Estuary Program Steering Committee members to discuss concerns regarding atmospheric deposition.

Why: Meeting will begin with expert presentations on the issue of atmospheric deposition and, based on those presentations, the committee will decide what the next step should be to address the specific

problem of atmospheric deposition in the Hudson estuary.

Contact: Bonnie Bellow, Director, Communications Division, EPA Region 2, (212) 637-3660, or bellow.bonnie@epamail.epa.gov

When: August 14, 1998

Where: Prescott, Arizona

Who & What: Steve Herman, Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, will give the keynote address on "Environmental Enforcement at the Federal Level" at the Arizona Association of Industries 7th Annual Environmental Summit Conference. All members of the Association, which has 600 members, are invited to attend.

Why: Many businesses, especially small ones, do not know about EPA's enforcement and compliance assurance program. Herman will describe the major elements of the program, including (a) how the Agency identifies violations and prosecutes and settles enforcement cases; (b) the incentive policies OECA has developed which encourage both large and small businesses to identify, voluntarily disclose and correct their violations; and (c) a number of technical and regulatory compliance assistance programs and activities which OECA has developed to help regulated industries comply with environmental requirements, such as the "on-line" National Compliance Assistance Centers for the auto services, printing, metal finishers, agricultural, and printed wiring board sectors. As businesses become more knowledgeable about EPA's enforcement and compliance, they increasingly use the compliance information and services available to them to try and improve their own compliance records. This provides OECA with excellent feedback on how it can modify or expand its compliance assistance efforts in order to provide better service in the future.

Contact: David O'Very, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, 202-564-2432., or overy.david@epamail.epa.gov

When: August 18, 1998

Where: Carver State Office Building, Wilmington, Del.

Who & What: EPA Region 3 Regional Administrator W. Michael McCabe will lead the regional office's senior managers at a meeting with counterpart state officials hosted by Secretary Christophe Tulou, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC). The purpose is to reach agreement on which environmental indicators and outcomes will guide the 1999 performance partnership agreement (PPA) between EPA and DNREC. The meeting is by invitation only for approximately 20 senior EPA and state environmental officials. The results of the meeting will be promptly made available to all interested people.

Why: PPAs are detailed agreements between EPA and state environmental agencies which--based on interaction with the public and agency analysis--identify key environmental problems and threatened ecosystems for priority action during the year. This meeting at the senior levels of both agencies ensures that the 1999 agreement will receive the management attention and resources needed for effective implementation.

Contact: The EPA contact is Shawn Garvin, 215/814-2998, garvin.shawn@epamail.epa.gov.

When: August 20-21 (tentative)

Where: Dallas, Texas

Who & What: Region 6 Regional Administrator and Senior Staff, Heads of all five Region 6 state environmental agencies and their senior policy advisors (30-35 attendees) will meet at an All States Retreat. Major policy issues will be discussed - agenda is not final at this time.

Why: To improve alliances with our state partners and to improve work processes.

Contact: Gladean Butler, (214)665-22203, or butler.gladean@epamail.epa.gov

When: August 23, 1998

Where: Boise, Idaho

Who & What: Lynn Goldman, Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances, and Idaho Senators Larry Craig and Dirk Kempthorne, will participate in a video teleconference with approximately 100 Idaho growers and agricultural leaders to discuss issues surrounding implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act. Marcia Mulkey, Director of the Office of Pesticide Programs, will be present in Boise to answer questions immediately following the teleconference.

Why: To hear and discuss stakeholders' concerns with the Food Quality Protection Act.

Contact: Doug Parsons, 202-260-2902

When: August 25, 1998

Where: Mobile, AL

Who & What: Region 4's Stan Meiburg, Deputy Regional Administrator, Beverly Banister, Water Management Deputy Division Director, and Mary Wilkes, Associate General Counsel will meet with Alabama State Docks and the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (15 attendees) to discuss possible Project XL for the Alabama State Docks. Meeting is by invitation only.

Why: Participant input will be used to determine the feasibility and scope of the XL project.

Contact: Daisy Sawicki, 404/562-8343, sawicki.daisy@epamail.epa.gov.

When: August 25, 1998

Where: Niagara County, NY (Site to be determined.)

Who & What: Region 2 Regional Administrator Jeanne Fox and Representative LaFalce (NY-29) will hold a photo-op and press availability with Niagara County officials regarding their Brownfields Pilot Grant and then tour some of area proposed for redevelopment.

Why: Opportunity to discuss importance of brownfields redevelopment with local press and listen to the concerns of and obstacles faced by Niagara County officials in their attempt to develop local brownfields.

Contact: Bonnie Bellow, Director, Communications Division, EPA Region 2, (212) 637-3660, or bellow.bonnie@epamail.epa.gov.

When: August 25, 1998

Where: EPA Regional Offices in San Francisco, California

Who & What: Workshop to discuss Regional Implementation of the revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone and particulate matter for State and local air agency, tribal, public interest, business and government representatives and stakeholders.

Why: This workshop provides an excellent opportunity to provide information and have a dialogue on the implementation approaches which requires State and local governments understanding of the program.

Contact: Al Zemsky (415) 744-1262

When: August 26

Where: Chicago, IL

Who & What: At the 14th Annual Voluntary Partnership Program Conference Jay Benforado, Acting Associate Administrator, Office of Reinvention, will be on a panel on "The Changing Role of the Regulator" with other federal, state, corporate, and union officials to discuss emerging emphasis on partnering with regulatory agencies. Panelists will explore public participation in rulemaking and cooperative initiatives that bridge the relationship between government, business, and labor.

Why: The panel discussion will provide an opportunity for EPA to better understand current issues of partnering with stakeholders, share lessons learned, and help develop new approaches.

Contact: Rebecca Nachtrieb, 260-7423

When: August 27-28, 1998

Where: Wyndham Franklin Plaza Hotel, 17th & Race Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Who & What: Tudor Davies, Director, Office of Science & Technology in the Office of Water, will lead three open public meetings on the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the Water Quality Standards Regulation. The Water Environment Federation will co-host. The purpose of the meetings is to provide a structured forum to discuss the future of the water quality standards regulation and program. The meeting will assist stakeholders in developing their positions and preparing their comments for the Agency during the 180-day public comment period. EPA's hope is that public comments will be better developed as a result of the public meetings.

Why: This public meeting will benefit stakeholders interested in commenting on the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The meeting will give attendees the opportunity to fully discuss the issues outlined in the Proposed Rulemaking. The public will be encouraged to participate in the discussions and to ask questions of the panelists and each other. Meeting attendees will also have the opportunity to discuss and debate specific topics in more detail during small group break out sessions.

Contact: Robert K. Wood (202) 260- 9536, robert.wood@epamail.epa.gov.

When: August 30

Where: Chautauqua, Oregon. S.W. Oregon Community College

Who & What: Either Chuck Clark or Chuck Findlay, Region 10 Regional Administrator and Deputy Regional Administrator, respectively, will attend the 2nd Annual Mark Hatfield Institute for International Understanding. Invited participants will include governors, senators, representatives and tribal leaders.

Why: To hear others' views on international issues.

Contact: Lauri Hennessey, 206-553-1138, hennessey.laurie@epamail.epa.gov

When: August (exact date TBD)

Where: Washington, DC

Who & What: Jay Benforado, Acting Associate Administrator, Office of Reinvention, and Lisa Lund, Deputy Associate Administrator for Reinvention Programs, will meet with representatives from public interest environmental groups to discuss the status and directions of the Project XL program.

Why: Discussion will provide EPA with ideas on how to improve Project XL's process and products to better meet stakeholder needs and interests.

Contact: Chris Knopes, 202/260-9298

SEPTEMBER 1998

When: September 1 -3, 1998

Where: Cary, NC's Embassy Suites

Who & What: The office of Research & Developments's National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL)

is co-sponsoring with the Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA) an International Symposium

on Measurement of Toxic and Related Air Pollutants in the Research Triangle Park area. The symposium

is open to the public (300 - 400 scientists and interested public). Research papers for oral and poster presentations are invited.

Why: For the past seventeen years, the National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL) at the Research Triangle Park, NC, has sponsored a symposium on the measurement of toxic and related air pollutants. The symposium provides a platform for a large number of EPA researchers to present their scientific findings before the scientific community, to involve researchers outside EPA to obtain the benefit of their scientific presentations on related issues, and to interact through discussions with leaders in the field attending the symposium and obtain their feedback.

Contact: Technical Co-chair Robert G. Fuerst, 919-541-2220, fuerst.robert@epamail.epa.gov

When: September 2

Where: Washington, DC

Who & What: At the Environmental Management Task Force (under the President's Council on Sustainable Development) meeting, Jay Benforado, Acting Associate Administrator Office of Reinvention, will represent EPA as the EMTF continues its effort to review the current national system of environmental management and develop recommendations. Participants include representatives from various stakeholder groups (such as states, industry, federal agencies, etc.).

Why: Stakeholder input will contribute to recommendations regarding regulatory and policy development toward more effective environmental protection and sustainable development.

Contact: Jay Benforado, 202/260-1849

When: September 2, 1998

Where: Princeton, NJ

Who & What: Region 2 Regional Administrator Jeanne Fox and Deputy Regional Administrator William Muszyuski will meet with NJ Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners.

Why: The discussions are part of an ongoing, informal dialogue to discuss issues of mutual concern.

Contact: Bonnie Bellow, Director, Communications Division, EPA Region 2, (212) 637-3660, or bellow.bonnie@epamail.epa.gov

When: September 2-3, 1998

Where: EPA Regional Office, Chicago, IL

Who & What: Stephen Luftig, Director of the Office of Emergency & Remedial Response (OERR), and Region 5's Deputy Regional Administrator Michelle Jordan will speak at the Sustainable Re-Use: "Recycling" Superfund Sites Stakeholder conference.

Why: To learn from stakeholders the demand, opportunities and obstacles to "recycling" Superfund sites. OERR expects about 100 invited stakeholders to attend and give their definition of the appropriate role for Superfund. This meeting is also an opportunity to inform stakeholders of EPA and other federal components who may assist in "recycling" Superfund sites.

Contact: David Ouderkirk 703-603-9039

When: Wednesday, Sept. 9, 1998

Where: Gary Lagoons site (Gary, Lake County, IN)

Who & What: EPA Region 5 Acting Regional Administrator David Ullrich, as well as other Federal, State, and local officials, will attend a media event to announce the successful completion of cleanup activities at the Gary Lagoons site. Sampling at the site showed elevated levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's), and a number of heavy metals, including chromium and lead.

Why: This event demonstrates EPA's continued efforts to form partnerships with Federal, State, and local agencies in successfully completing environmental projects.

Contact: Kristen S. Tyrpin, Office of Public Affairs (312) 886-9840, tyrpin.kristen@epa.gov

When: September 10, 1998

Where: Belleayre, NY

Who & What: Region 2 Regional Administrator Jeanne Fox, Deputy Regional Administrator William Muszynski, and all Division Directors will meet for an annual program review with NY Department of Environmental Conservation senior staff.

Why: This meeting gives both staffs the opportunity to have in-depth discussion of concerns regarding environmental protection efforts in New York State.

Contact: Bonnie Bellow, Director, Communications Division, EPA Region 2, (212) 637-3660, or bellow.bonnie@epamail.epa.gov

When: September 12, 1998

Where: Orlando, FL

Who & What: Lynn Goldman, Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances, will attend the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology's Clinical Symposium to discuss pesticide toxicity in children with the medical community. (400 attendees)

Why: To gain input into the role the Federal government can play in addressing children's environmental health issues.

Contact: Mike Fernandez 202-202-260-2902

When: September 12, 1998

Where: Washington, DC

Who & What: Carol Browner, EPA Administrator, will meet with a group of citizens hosted by Representative James Moran of Virginia.

Why: To discuss issues relating to women's & children's health.

Contact: Michael Scott 202-260-5982

When: September 13, 1998

Where: Little Rock, AK

Who & What: Lynn Goldman, Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances, will attend and make comments at the Sixteenth International Neurotoxicology/Pesticides Conference. (100 Attendees)

Why: To discuss EPA's current understanding of the neurotoxicity of pesticides and obtain input from leading experts regarding the science underlying many pesticide regulatory decisions.

Contact: Doug Parsons 202-260-2902

When: September 14-15

Where: Washington, D.C.

Who & What: Lynn Goldman, Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances, will participate in the stakeholder process on the implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA). (150 attendees.)

Why: This FACA committee includes fifty key stakeholders and will help guide the implementation of FQPA.

Contact: Doug Parsons 202-260-2902

When: September 16-17

Where: Washington, DC

Who & When: The Metal Finishing Subcommittee, Common Sense Initiative will meet to review the status and products of Metal Finishing Goals 2000 program with representatives from stakeholder groups (e.g., states, industry, etc.).

Why: Discussion will provide EPA and other Subcommittee members with feedback on current process and next steps.

Contact: Bob Benson, Designated Federal Official, 202/260-8668

When: September 18, 1998

Where: The Madison Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Who & What: Earl Devaney, Director of EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Forensics and Training in the Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance (OECA) and will participate in a panel discussion on EPA's Voluntary Disclosure Policy at the American Law Institute-American Bar Association (ALI-ABA) Advanced Course on the Criminal Enforcement of Environmental Laws. The event is open to environmental lawyers in the public and private sector for a registration fee.

Why: EPA's voluntary disclosure policy ("audit" policy) provides incentives for businesses to identify, disclose and detect violations of environmental laws. EPA encourages widespread use of the policy in order to enhance compliance. OECA is currently conducting a study on the effectiveness of the policy. The ALI-ABA panel includes representatives from the private sector who will engage in a dialogue with federal participants about how industry views the disclosure policy and the factors used in deciding whether to make use of the policy and enter cooperative negotiations with EPA. The feedback from the panel will provide useful information as OECA analyzes the effectiveness of the policy and considers possible modifications to enhance its utility in the future.

Contact: Michael Penders, Office of Criminal Enforcement, Forensics and Training, 202-564-2526. or e-mail penders.michael@epamail.epa.gov

When: September 22-24, 1998

Where: Biloxi, MS

Who & What: John Hankinson, EPA Regional Administrator, Region 4, will speak during the Eighth Annual Southern States Environmental Conference to representatives of industry, municipalities, state and federal agencies, the military, engineering and consulting communities and academia.(300 people) Topics include a wide range of environmental issues of interest to EPA Region 4. Attendance is open.

Why: EPA will use participant input to establish priorities for land habitat use, pollution prevention, and air regulations.

Contact: Becky Hendrix, 404/562-83423, hendrix.becky@epamail.epa.gov.

When: September 22-24, 1998

Where: Research Triangle Park Area of North Carolina

Who & What: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is hosting the North American Consortium for Atmospheric Research (in support of air quality management) Workshop on Fine Particle Characterization and Atmospheric-Process Research as part of its in-kind contribution to the tri-national consortium partnership, a public/private alliance federal/state agencies, industry, academia, non-profit scientific institutions, and public interest organizations in Mexico, Canada, and the United States. The workshop will be open to the public, but invitations will be sent to atmospheric scientists around the world who are known for their research on fine particles and their impact on ozone

formation and visibility reduction in the troposphere. (200 anticipated)

Why: The consortium's mission is to plan, coordinate, and facilitate comprehensive, long-term, policy-relevant research programs that address specific tropospheric pollution issues across the North American continent. The goals of this workshop are to (1) identify current research activities, (2) identify key knowledge gaps, (3) identify research needs to fill those gaps, and (4) establish research priorities for atmospheric-process research on fine particles in the troposphere over North America. The results of the workshop will be used to define the consortium's fine particle research strategy (i.e., Part 4 of the Strategic Execution Plan). The consortium's research strategy will be made available to all member organizations (including EPA) and the general public.

Contact: Ronald K. Patterson, EPA - ORD - NERL, 919-541-3779, patterson.ronald@epamail.epa.gov

When: September 24, 1998

Where: Phoenix, AZ

Who & What: David Gardiner, Assistant Administrator for Policy, will be speaking at EPA's regional climate conference titled, "Climate Change: What Does It Mean for the Southwest?" Approximately 200 business leaders; state, local, and tribal government officials; public health officials; energy industry executives; and environmental leaders will attend. Preliminary agenda packages will be sent to individuals on an invitation list. However, the event is publicized on the web and is open to anyone to attend. Pre-registration is highly encouraged, as space is limited.

Why: This one-day conference will provide information on how climate change could affect the Southwest, explore opportunities for local business and government leaders to benefit from voluntary programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and describe how new environmental technologies can play a role in mitigating climate change. Feedback and suggestions from attendees will be used to improve future meetings and the voluntary program opportunities.

Contact: Julie Spyres, (202) 260-6787, e-mail: spyres.julie@epamail.epa.gov

When: September 28

Where: Washington, DC

Who & What: Jay Benforado, Acting Associate Administrator, Office of Reinvention, will represent EPA in discussions of sustainable development issues at the President's Council on Sustainable Development meeting.

Why: EPA will gain increased understanding of stakeholders concerns regarding how environmental policies and regulations affect sustainability.

Contact: Jay Benforado, 202/260-1849

When: September 28-29

Where: Washington, DC

Who & What: Printing Subcommittee, Common Sense Initiative is meeting to review status and products of PrintStep initiative (multimedia permitting approaches for the printing sector) with representatives from stakeholder groups (e.g., states, industry, etc.).

Why: Discussion will provide EPA and other Subcommittee members with feedback on current process and next steps.

Contact: Gina Bushong, Designated Federal Official, 202/564-2242

When: September 29, 1998

Where: White Sulphur Springs, WV

Who & What: Lynn Goldman, Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances, will speak at the American Crop Protection Association Annual Meeting.

Why: To present status of EPA's implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act and to gain input from the pesticides industry, growers and other stakeholders. (Approximately 125 Attendees.)

Contact: Doug Parsons 202-260-2902

When: September (exact date TBD)

Where: Washington, DC

Who & What: Lisa Lund, Deputy Associate Administrator for Office of Reinvention Programs, will meet with representatives from multi stakeholder groups, (e.g., industry, environmental, state, etc. groups) to review and discuss ideas and suggestions for improving the program through redesigning the process and products of Project XL.

Why: Discussion will provide EPA with ideas and suggestions to improve Project XL's process and products to better meet stakeholder needs and interests.

Contact: Kim Green-Goldsborough, 202/260-4297

When: September (exact date TBD)

Where: Washington, DC

Who and When: Jay Benforado, Acting Associate Administrator for Reinvention, will meet with representatives from multi-stakeholder groups (e.g, states, industry, etc.) to discuss EPA's Data Quality Plan to address environmental data quality needs and gaps.

Why: Discussion will provide input to EPA on how to design effective data quality and correction measures.

Contact: William Sonntag, 202/260-0633